

it will do seniors and the rest of us. He is proposing this to play politics, to try to thwart tax cuts, and try to have a bigger, more powerful government.

RETURN THE BUDGET SURPLUS TO THE PEOPLE IT BELONGS TO

(Mr. SCHAFFER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, government or the people; that is the question. Should the projected budget surpluses be kept in Washington, D.C., or should it be returned to the people it belongs to?

On the liberal side of the aisle, they say, trust politicians. We won't spend it. We'll invest it wisely for you.

On the conservative side of the aisle, we look at human nature. All of our history, and especially the track record of these very same people making these promises and we say, nice try. Let's give it back to the taxpayers before politicians in Washington spend it.

The idea that the same people who blocked Ronald Reagan's attempts at cutting spending and then blamed Reagan for budget deficits, the same people who call Republicans extremists every time we try to cut spending, the same people who become hysterical every time Republicans insist on fiscal discipline are now asking us to trust they will not spend the budget surplus. I find that completely absurd, and in any case, that money belongs to the people, not to the government.

THREE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO WITH THE SURPLUS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, we now have a surplus for the first time since 1969, and there are two reasons for this: number one, Congress has brought in the rein on spending; but number two, and more importantly, hard-working Americans have worked their tails off, and tax revenues have increased as a result of it.

I believe there are three things we need to do with that surplus and there are three things that the Republican bill did do last week.

Number one, protected and preserved Social Security and Medicare. This bill set aside \$1.9 trillion in Social Security and Medicare and used a lockbox device. Keep in mind the President not only wanted to preserve 62 percent of Social Security, the Republican bill preserves 100 percent.

The number two thing this bill does is pays down the debt. For 40 years, liberal Washington spending programs have given us a \$5.4 trillion debt. This bill pays it down by over \$2 trillion.

And then number three, it gives Americans their refund for overcharge on the government. It gives 792 billion

in tax relief, and as liberal Senator BOB KERREY says, it is not reckless; it is not irresponsible when you are looking at the surpluses that we are.

I hope that the demagoguery in Washington will stop and we can pass this very important bill for the sake of Social Security, Medicare, and the debt.

STOP THEM BEFORE THEY SPEND AGAIN

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is a rather interesting argument that the Republicans make so that they can pass their tax bill to give the vast majority of its benefits to the wealthiest people in this country, and that is they must give the money to the wealthy so that the Congress will not spend the money. It is interesting because there can be no expenditures of that money without Republican votes.

Last time I looked this morning, the Republicans controlled the Senate and the Republicans controlled the House, but they keep saying, You have to stop me before I spend again. It is the Republicans' Committee on Appropriations that is coming up with phony emergencies. They now want to say that the census was an emergency. We could not predict it, we could not see it, we did not know it was coming. That is funny; it has come every 10 years. For the last 200 years of this country we have had a census in this country, but somehow now it is an emergency spending so that they can break the caps, so they can spend the surplus supposedly there for Social Security. Every day now they are dipping into the Social Security Trust Fund to spend more and more money.

So the Republicans are saying, You got to give a tax cut to the wealthiest people, otherwise they will spend the money. Sort of like the son of Sam who was saying, Stop me before I kill again.

Stop them before they spend again.

ABOLISH DOE

(Mr. ROYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, \$30,000 should be enough to purchase a nice car or make a down payment on a house or pay for a couple of years of college, but \$30,000 should not be enough to buy a \$9 million supercomputer especially when the technology has the potential to be exported for nuclear weapons research. But that is exactly what the Department of Energy has allowed to happen, and when the DOE officials realized their mistake, they scrambled to buy the computer back for three times the sales price.

Now this just does not compute.

The Department has proven time and time again that it does not put a pre-

mium on national security, and that is why I have introduced my bill, H.R. 2411, which would eliminate this multi-billion-dollar bureaucracy with confused missions and questionable priorities. Frankly, these are responsibilities that should be handled again by the Department of Defense. We should abolish this agency.

It is time we stopped the Department of Energy from turning our national labs into garage sales. I urge my colleagues to take a closer look at this risk to America's national security interests.

TRADE POLICY TOWARD THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN CHINA

(Mr. ROHRABACHER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, in a few brief minutes this House will consider the issue of what trade policy we shall have towards the Communist regime in China.

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It is a bipartisan issue. It is an issue in which there are some Republicans on one side and some Republicans on the other; some Democrats on one side, some Democrats on the other.

I would ask the American people to pay close attention to the debate that we will have on this issue. This debate will determine whether or not this country is remaining true to its principles as stated by our Founding Fathers; whether or not that is indeed our highest value, that freedom and democracy and human rights remain the highest value for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, if we are not committed to those fundamental principles, we will lose in the end, because not only will we not prosper, but our country will be put in jeopardy, our national security will be compromised. This, perhaps, is one of the most important issues that we will discuss this year, and I would hope that the American people pay close attention to the upcoming debate.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GILLMOR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the pending business is the question of agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.